

Section 5

RULES OF THE ROAD

General Driving

Passengers

Passing

Turning

Right of Way

Intersections

Overtaking Vehicles

Emergency Vehicles

Funeral Processions

Pedestrians

School Zone Safety

School Buses

Parking



Rules of the Road help people get safely to and from where they want to go.

When everyone **OBEYS** the rules of the road, the number of deaths and injuries on our streets and highways ARE less.

Crashes are caused by **ERRORS** in **HUMAN JUDGMENT** .

OBEY the rules of the road and each trip will be SAFE.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS KEEP YOU SAFE



The first rule of the road is **OBEY**.

OBEY the orders of the highway patrol, police officers and flaggers.

OBEY all traffic control devices.



OBEY all traffic laws.

Some basic important laws are:

A person operating or driving a vehicle shall drive in a careful and prudent (**SAFE**) manner.

Walk around the car before backing up.



DRIVERS shall move a vehicle only when it can be done safely and without interfering with traffic. Never back up or stop in any travel lane.



DRIVERS shall drive vehicles in safe mechanical condition.

DRIVERS shall give a proper signal before turning.



General Driving

Drive at a speed that is safe for conditions.

ASK YOURSELF -

Can I see ok?

Can I stop quickly?

Do I feel well enough to drive?



OBEY SPEED LIMIT signs



- but remember –

CAR CONTROL and GOOD JUDGMENT

tell you how fast to drive for every condition.

**You must decide if it is safe for you to drive
each time you drive.**



PASSENGERS

Passengers must **NOT** interfere with the driver's ability to drive or obstruct the driver's view. Everyone in the car must wear a seat belt.



Montana's Graduated Driver License Law limits passengers for teens with a one year restricted license.



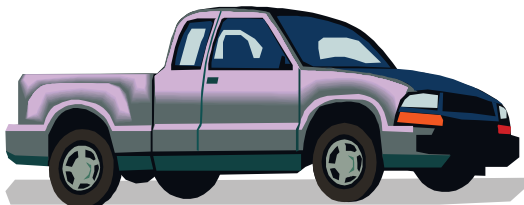
First Six Months – One passenger who is not a family member.

Second Six Months – up to three passengers who are not family members.



BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY EACH PASSENGER in all vehicles must have a seat belt and WEAR IT!

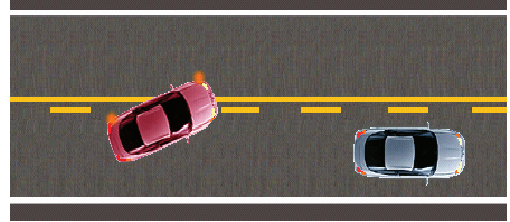
Riding in the back of a pickup is not illegal BUT
It is not a safe thing to do. Many people are hurt by falling out on corners
and after quick stops. Other people have been killed when the pickup rolls
over in a crash.



PASSING

Drive with the flow of traffic and pass only as needed.

If allowed, overtake and pass other vehicles **ON THE LEFT AT A SAFE DISTANCE**.



WAIT UNTIL THE ROAD AHEAD IS CLEAR before passing.

Do not crowd the other vehicle.

On two lane roads, you may cross the centerline when overtaking and passing another vehicle.

RETURN TO RIGHT when you can see the front of the vehicle you've passed in your rearview mirror.

When you pass, **YOU MUST RETURN** to the **RIGHT** side of the road before coming within **100 feet** of an approaching car.

REMEMBER You must also get safely clear of the car you passed. Watch your mirrors and look over your shoulder.

BEING PASSED

If someone is trying to pass you, stay in your lane.

Go the same speed as you were.



If you see an approaching vehicle from the other direction, slow down to let the passing vehicle return to the travel lane.

If a car is close behind you and wants to pass, slow down a little. This will make more space in front of you. It will give the car that wants to pass more room to pull back in once it has passed you.

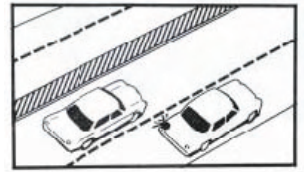
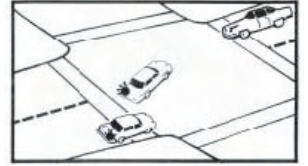
Passing On the Right

Usually you overtake and pass on the left. If you pass on the right, other drivers may not see you and might change lanes in front of you.

Never pass on the shoulder. Other drivers will never expect you to be there and they may pull off the road without looking on the shoulder.

You **MAY** overtake and pass on the right, **IF IT IS SAFE**, and can be done on pavement:

1. **WHEN** the car you overtake is turning left, and there is room;
2. **WHEN** you are traveling on a one-way street; or
3. **WHEN** there are two or more lanes in each direction.



Overtaking Vehicles

Drivers overtaking and catching up to a vehicle traveling in the same direction must slow down and yield to that vehicle. Yield to vehicles in your lane slowing for a turn or coming to a stop.

TURNING LOOK

Are there signs or signals? Is it safe to turn?

Are there vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians ahead, to sides or back?

THINK

Is it legal to turn here?

Do others know what I am doing?

Where should my car go?

SIGNAL

Use turn indicators or hand signals 100 feet in town;
300 feet in country.

COMMUNICATE

Glance at other drivers.

Have your car in proper lane position to turn.

Vehicle position and eye contact can tell drivers you are going to turn.

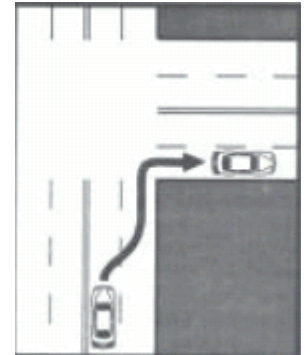
Turn only when it can be done safely.



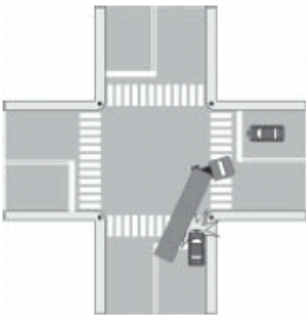
Right Turns



Far before the corner, signal and move over to the right lane. If you want to turn right off a four-lane road you should turn from the lane closest to the right curb or edge of the road. Turn into the lane closest to the right side of the road.

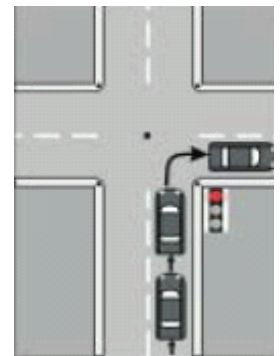


1. Begin turn signal and start slowing down at least 100 feet from the corner. Signal 300 feet for rural areas.
2. Look straight ahead and to both sides for traffic and people crossing before starting to make a right turn.
3. Turn into the right travel lane as you turn the corner, but watch for cars parked along the curb .



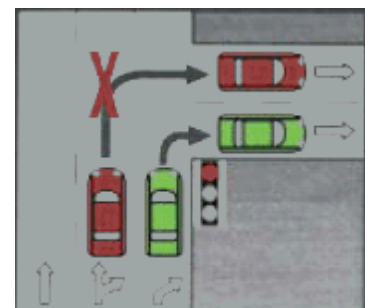
Caution – Watch for large trucks and buses making right turns. In order to make the turn they may need to swing left before turning right. Do not try to pass these large vehicles on the right.

Right turns can be made when a traffic light is red unless there is a “No Turn On Red” sign. Move into the right lane closest to the curb. STOP. Wait until all pedestrians, bicycles and cars are out of the way. Turn right into the right lane.



If there is more than one lane for right turns, you can only turn right on red from the lane farthest to the right, next to the curb.

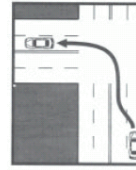
The red car and the red “X” show what NOT to do. If you turn from the left lane you could be in the way of a car coming through the intersection on a green light.



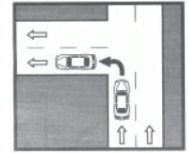
Left Turns

To make a left turn:

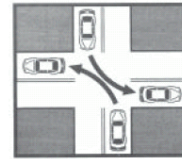
- Check your mirrors for cars behind you and turn your head to the left to check beside you
- When clear, signal and move over close to the centerline
- Put your turn signal on and start slowing down 100 feet from the intersection.
Signal 300 feet for rural areas.
- Look straight ahead and to both sides for traffic and people crossing before starting to make a left turn.
- Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians
- Don't cut corners. Don't swing wide.
- As you turn, keep close to the centerline, but stay on the right side of the centerline.
- Gradually move to the center of the lane and be sure signal is cancelled.



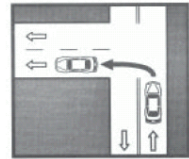
From divided to divided highway.



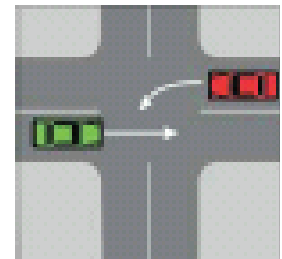
From one-way to one-way street.



From two-way to two-way street.

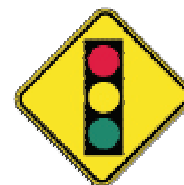


From two-way to one-way street.



To make a left turn at a green traffic light:

- Enter the intersection. Keep wheels straight.
- Wait for traffic to clear. Then make your left turn.



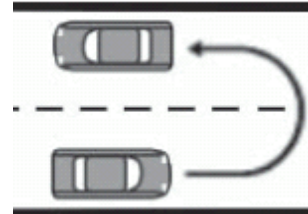
TURNING AROUND

A U-turn is a turn on the road as shown in the picture. Try to avoid U-Turns, go into a parking lot, turn around and come out.

You may make a U-turn on any country, two lane road if it can be done safely.

You may **NOT** make a U-turn at any of these places:

- In a business district
- On a main highway in a residential area
- At any intersection with traffic signals
- When a police officer is directing traffic
- On or near a curve IF you cannot be seen by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction within 500 feet.



RIGHT OF WAY

YIELD means to let other traffic go first.

SLOW TO A REASONABLE SPEED as you approach this sign so you can stop if cars or people are in or near the intersection.



Right-of-Way rules about who must yield at intersections and road crossings include:

- You must be ready to **YIELD** to vehicles on the road you are going to cross.
- **YIELD** to vehicles already in a traffic circle.
- Watch for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians on the right, left and ahead.
- Slow down and be ready to stop and wait.

YIELD at a traffic light change to vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians still in the intersection.



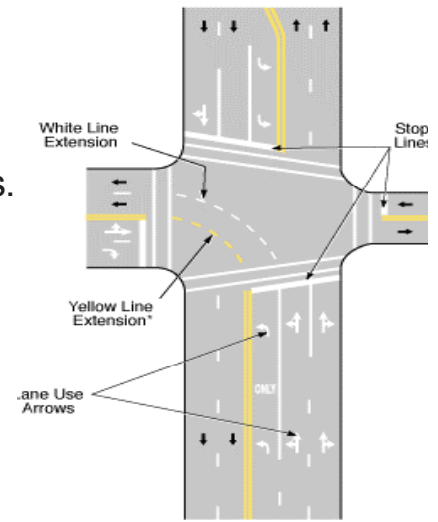
INTERSECTIONS

- An intersection is where two or more roads cross or join.
- Slow down and watch for people, cars, trucks and bicycles.
- Look left, right, straight ahead and left again.
- Wait for a clear path of travel before crossing any intersection.

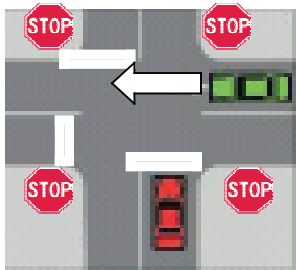
RIGHT OF WAY

Rules about who must yield at intersections and road crossings are called the right-of-way rules. You yield the right-of-way when you let someone else go first.

Here are some examples of who must yield the right-of-way



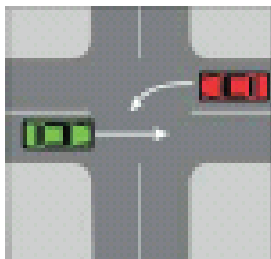
Controlled Intersections



Intersections with yield or stop signs are called controlled intersections. When there are stop signs at all four corners it is a 4 Way Stop. The first driver to stop at the corner should be the first to go through the intersection when it is safe to cross. If two or more drivers get there at the same time, yield to the driver on your right so they can go first after they have come to a complete stop.



Uncontrolled Intersections



Uncontrolled intersections are those with no traffic lights, stop or yield signs. Drivers must yield to vehicles coming from the right. Drivers turning left must wait for oncoming traffic going straight ahead. The red car turning left must wait and yield the right of way to the green car going straight.



STOP and YIELD



You must STOP and YIELD when leaving from:

AN ALLEY

A DRIVEWAY

A BUILDING or PARKING LOT

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

You must yield the right of way to police vehicles, fire engines, ambulances or other emergency vehicles using a siren and red or blue flashing lights.

- Pull over to the right edge of the road when you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching from any direction.
- Follow any instructions given over the emergency vehicle loud speaker.
- STOP and wait until the emergency vehicle has passed.
- If you are in an intersection, drive through the intersection before you pull over and stop.
- Signal and move into the passing lane to pass a traffic stop or accident.



PEDESTRIANS

Drivers must be alert and watch for pedestrians.

Yield the right of way even when pedestrians are crossing in the wrong place.

LOOK out for people walking.

People will:

WALK while intoxicated.

CROSS between parked cars.

CROSS against a signal light.

CROSS between intersections.

FAIL to watch traffic.

PLAY in the street.

WALK diagonally across an intersection.

WALK in the street.



BE PREPARED TO STOP QUICKLY.

BLIND PEDESTRIANS



Blind people may carry a white cane or be led by a guide dog. Both Drivers and Pedestrians must take care to avoid crash or injury to blind or partially sighted people.

Drivers must come to a full STOP when a blind person approaches. Watch for guide dogs and white canes. Do not sound the horn. Stop ten feet away and wait until the person is off the road.



SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY



STOP for school crossing guards
STOP for children in crosswalks



WATCH for children near schools and parks day and night. Children go to schools, parks and playgrounds at all hours.

Develop the habit of checking your speed and slowing down near any school.



SCHOOL BUSES

YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS warn that a school bus is going to stop. Slow down. Drive carefully. Watch for children.



RED FLASHING LIGHTS warn drivers to stop before reaching the school bus. Do not proceed until children are off the road and the red lights have been turned off (extinguished).



SCHOOL BUSES

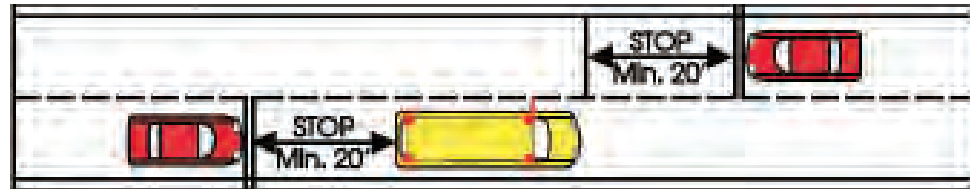
STOP when school buses flash red lights.



You must stop if you approach a school bus that has stopped and has its red signal lights on and stop arm out. It is loading or unloading children. You may not go until the flashing red signal lights on the bus go off. You may not make a right turn in front of a school bus or a city bus that is stopped at an intersection to load or unload people.

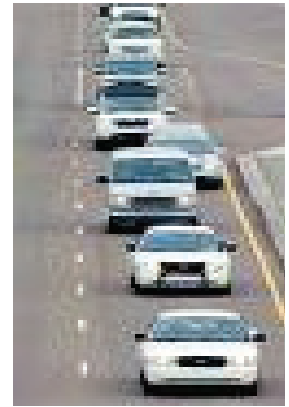
Picture A shows who must stop on a 2-lane road. Both cars must stop at least 20 feet behind or in front of the school bus.

Picture A
Two Lane Road



FUNERAL PROCESSIONS

- Drivers in a funeral procession (line) should turn on their headlights and follow the car ahead closely.
- Only the front car in the line must obey traffic signs and signals.
- Other traffic should stop and let the funeral procession go by.
- Be careful! You need to be ready to slow or stop if other drivers don't yield the right-of-way.



PARKING

Park in a parking lot or if you must park on a road, park as far away from traffic as possible.

Park where cars coming from both directions can see your car.

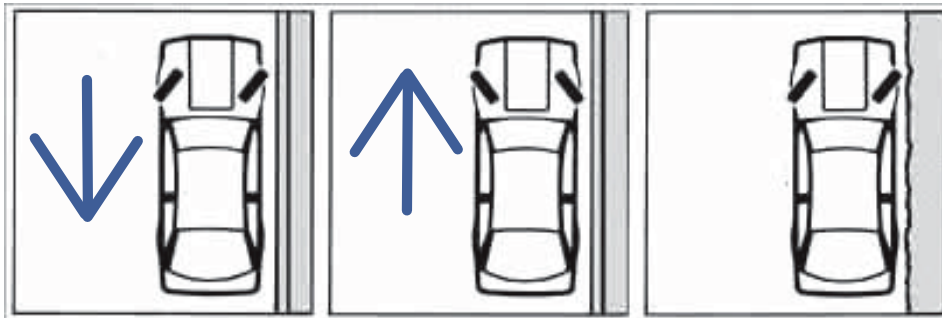
When you park on a hill, turn your wheels so that if your car starts to roll downhill, it will roll away from traffic.

On Grades

With Curb

With Curb

No Curb



DOWNHILL

Turn wheels

TOWARD curb

UPHILL

Turn wheels **AWAY**

FROM curb

NO CURB

Uphill or downhill

Turn wheels to **RIGHT**

ALWAYS SET YOUR PARKING BRAKE

PLACES YOU MAY NOT PARK:



- Sidewalk
- Driveway
- Intersection
- Bridge
- Fire hydrant
- Near railroad crossing
- Near stop sign

Steps in Parallel Parking

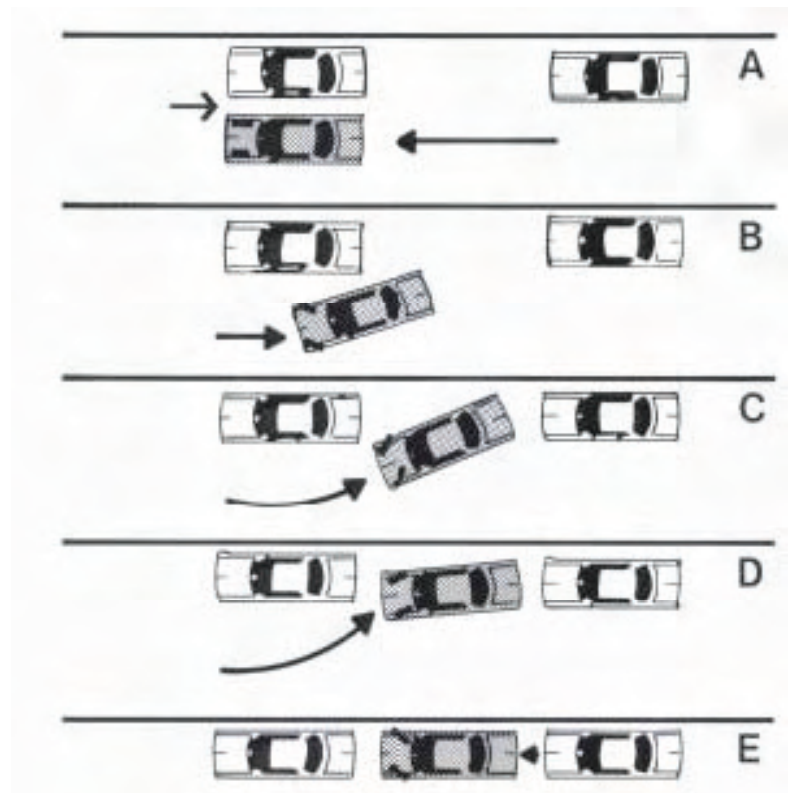
A. Your car needs approximately 2 feet separation from the car parked in front of the parking space.

B. Be in correct lane; tap brake, signal, slow down; stop two feet out; line up back bumpers.

C. Shift to reverse—hold brake; Turn steering wheel all the way to right; back until steering wheel is in a straight line with back bumper of other car. Stop. Straighten steering wheel. Back slowly

D. When your front bumper is past rear bumper of other car, turn wheel all the way left.

E. Slowly back until car is straight. Do not bump car behind. Move forward until in center of space and parallel to curb. Vehicles parked parallel shall have their wheels within 18 inches of the curb



PARKING

NO person shall stop or park a vehicle where prohibited **EXCEPT:**
WHEN NECESSARY to avoid conflict with traffic,
OR in compliance with the law.

It is unlawful to park:

- On a sidewalk or bridge
- Closer than 20 feet to a crosswalk at an intersection
- Closer than 30 feet to a stop sign, traffic light or flashing beacon
- Closer than 15 feet to a fire hydrant
- Closer than 20 feet to a fire station
- In front of the entrance to an alley or private driveway
- In any area reserved for disabled parking unless you are disabled.

The law says you **MUST** park within 18 inches of the curb. Good drivers do more. They put the car in **PARK**, set the brake, shut windows, turn off lights, **TAKE THEIR KEYS** and lock the car.

Pulling Out FROM A PARKING PLACE

Remember the letters **SMOG**

S - SIGNAL before pulling out of a parking place.

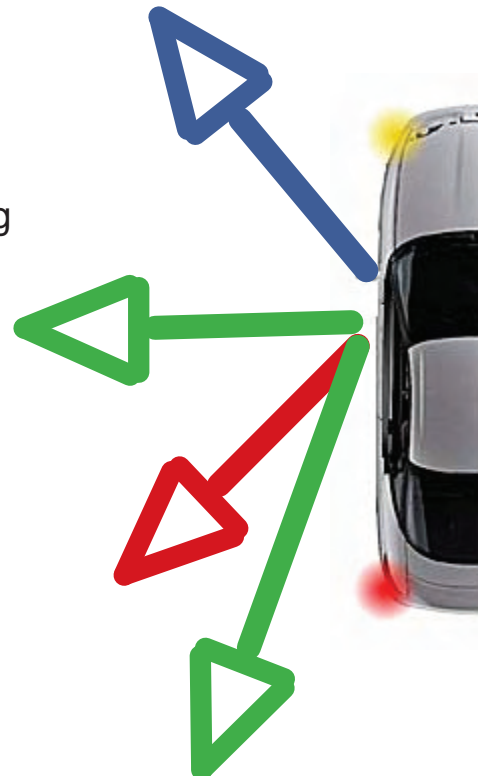
M - Mirrors CHECK your path of travel

O - LOOK OVER your shoulder for bicycles, cars and pedestrians

G - GO

MOST CRASHES between cars being driven out of a parking place and cars driving on the street are caused by careless drivers pulling out and **NOT LOOKING**.

REMEMBER TO LOOK and SIGNAL



Section 5 Rules of the Road SELF-TEST

Directions: Choose only one answer.

1. When approaching a "Yield" right of way sign, you must:
 - a. yield only to drivers on your right
 - b. turn on your emergency flashers
 - c. slow and be ready to allow other traffic to go first
 - d. come to a complete stop

2. When dealing with pedestrians, a driver must:
 - a. make very sure the pedestrian sees him/her
 - b. yield the right-of-way, even if the pedestrian is in the wrong
 - c. always yield the right-of-way when the pedestrian is legally entitled to it
 - d. slow down and sound the horn when entering a heavily congested area

3. A driver, upon meeting or overtaking a school bus from either direction, which has stopped on the highway with its red lights flashing, must:
 - a. stop before reaching the bus and not proceed until the bus has resumed motion.
 - b. stop before reaching the bus and not proceed until the red lights have been extinguished.
 - c. stop before reaching the bus and proceed only when all children have loaded or unloaded.
 - d. stop and do not proceed until the way is clear

4. When encountering a funeral procession, a driver:
 - a. may not drive between the vehicles forming the procession unless authorized by a police officer
 - b. may not enter an intersection to cross the path of a funeral procession as it proceeds through a red traffic control device
 - c. must yield the right-of-way to a vehicle that is part of the funeral procession
 - d. all of the above

5. Vehicles parked parallel shall have their wheels within how many inches of the curb?
- a. 12 inches
 - b. 24 inches
 - c. 18 inches
 - d. 6 inches
6. When parking on a hill facing uphill without a curb:
- a. turn wheels to the right
 - b. turn wheels to the left
 - c. keep wheels straight ahead
 - d. turn on parking lights
7. When two vehicles arrive at a four-way stop, which car goes first?
- a. The car on the right
 - b. The car on the left
 - c. The car that stops there first
 - d. The car that is turning left
8. When pulling out from a parallel parking place you should:
- a. look and signal
 - b. hurry to not interfere with traffic
 - c. wait until no car is within three blocks
 - d. wait for a green light
9. When passing, you must return to the right side of the road within _____ of an approaching car.
- a. 100 feet
 - b. 500 feet
 - c. 1/4 mile
 - d. 50 feet
10. Other than by your turn signals, other motorists can sometimes determine your intention to turn by:
- a. your vehicle position and eye contact.
 - b. the turning of your wheels.
 - c. your slowing up at the corner.
 - d. the actions of the car behind you.